

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 101049Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: REPUTED PAK INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHAN COUP

PLOT; BALUCHISTAN; WALI KHAN

1. DURING MEETING OCTOBER 9 WITH PRIMIN BHUTTO I ASKED HIS CURRENT VIEW ON RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID SITUATION BORE WATCHING BUT GOP WOULD TRY TO AVOID BEING PROVIDED. AS FOR RECENT ABORTIVE AFGHAN COUP PLOT, GOP WAS NOT INVOLVED DESPITE WHAT GOA MAY BE SAYING. (BHUTTO ADDED, IN ASIDE, THAT IF PAKS HAD BEEN INVOLVED HE WOULDN'T MIND TELLING ME SO.) AS FOR MAIWANDWAL, BHUTTO SAID, GOP HAD HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIM RECENTLY. HE RECALLED MAIWANDWAL'S REPUTATION, WHEN IN OFFICE, AS "RABID" ON PUKHTUNISTAN, AND ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW GOP COULD COLLABORATE WITH HIM.

2. BHUTTO VOLUNTEERED THAT WHEN NAIM VISITED MOSCOW
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NOT LONG AGO, SOVS HAD ASKED HIM WHY NEW LEADERSHIP

IN KABUL WERE KEEPING PRO-AMERICAN TYPES AROUND. WE DID NOT DELVE INTO THAT POINT BUT IT WAS AN OBVIOUS WAY FOR BHUTTO TO ALLUDE TO GOP VIEW OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO CONCERN WHICH, IN PAK EYES, USG SHOULD HAVE OVER DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

3. I ASKED HOW BHUTTO SAW CURRENT SITUATION IN BALUCHISTAN, WHICH WE HAD LAST DISCUSSED BEFORE HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. BHUTTO SAID HE SAW SITUATION THERE AS IMPROVING. THERE WAS LESS FIGHTING THAN BEFORE. THE MENGALS (ONE OF THE LEADING DISSIDENT TRIBES) SEEMED LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT FIGHTING THAN THEY HAD BEEN. BHUTTO WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOP HAD "BROKEN THE BACK OF THE SARDARI SYSTEM" OF TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS. (BHUTTO'S ACCOUNT OF LESSENING OF FIGHTING AND EASING OF TENSIONS IN BALUCHISTAN IS NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHER RECENT RPORTS REACHING EMBASSY.)

4. RESPONDING MY QUERY ABOUT ORIGIN OF RECENT ASSISSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST WALI KHAN (NAP LEADER), BHUTO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WALI HAD BLAMED GOP AND BHUTTO PERSONALLSSAS INSTIGATIORS. HE DENIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSISSINATION ATTEMPT, AND GAVE IT AS HIS GUESS THAT MAZDOOR KISSAN PARTY (LEFTIST SPLINTER GROUP IN NWFP) WAS RESPONSIBLE. HE RECALLED THAT MAZDOOR KISSAN VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED FORMER NAP GOVERNMENT IN NWFP, PARTICULARLY ON ISSUE OF LAND-LORDS' RIGHTS WHICH WALI SUPPORTED. BHUTTO ADDED THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE HAD NOW BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH INQUIRY INTO ATTEMPT AGAINST WALI. HE HOPED SOME FIRMER INFORMATION ON THE ATTEMPT WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, HE RECALLED, HE HAD SENT PERSONAL LETTER TO WALI REGRETTING THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.
SOBER

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